



BLS Youth CAN students were one of three high schools nationally to receive the Samsung Sustainable Energy Award for 10K in June 2012

## Shared Green Roof Becomes Part of BLS Strategic Plan

### BLS YouthCAN Turns Six

As BLS YouthCAN entered its sixth year, the award winning student group celebrated establishing Boston Latin School as a regional leader for youth-led school-based sustainability initiatives while their successful model continued to draw national and international attention.

### Overview 2011/2012

YouthCAN kicked off the 2011/2012 school-year by being invited to help lead the the Boston Moving Planet rally. In October, a YouthCAN delegation (including Boston's Chief of Energy and Environmental Services, James Hunt, 3 students, a teacher, and a YouthCAN alum) traveled to Paris to present at Sustainability Conference *Les Respirations* about YouthCAN's model for youth leadership and partnerships in the City of Boston around the Shared Green Roof proposal, concluding in a visit to the American Embassy in Paris to launch a League of Green Youth Ambassadors. In partnership with the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT, BLS Youth CAN held their Sixth Annual Summit on Global Climate Change hosting several hundred students and educators for a day of learning and networking about climate change and sustainability at MIT. YouthCAN faculty advisor, Cate Arnold won a trip to Antarctica with the 2041 organization to learn about climate change and sustainability for YouthCAN's work

### Shared Green Roof Update

In January, YouthCAN students and the Headmaster had a successful Shared Green Roof meeting with Mayor Menino at City Hall. In March, YouthCAN students hosted a Community Visioning Event at the Gardner Museum to begin to engage others in the community in the project. Region 1 Administrator for the EPA, Curt Spalding was in attendance. Students later launched a Shared Green Roof Youth Task Force to advance the project. The Shared Green Roof proposal became an official part of the strategic plan for Boston Latin School in July

as the year-long planning process concluded. This summer YouthCAN also developed a business plan for the Green Roof project and applied for the 100K Zayed Global High School Prize (winners TBA Jan 2013.) In the fall, students will again meet with the Mayor to introduce the Shared Green Roof Youth Task Force and the business plan.

### YouthCAN Activities

Throughout the 2011/2012 school year, YouthCAN students maintained their school garden as well as their mentoring program for 5th graders at the Philbrick Elementary School. YouthCAN also continued their zero-sort recycling program. Based on the success of the model, the City of Boston is implementing similar programs in 30 additional schools in Sept. 2012. Students raised \$2,400.00 in a fair trade fundraiser to support a food digester for the cafeteria (plans on hold, pending securing a digester shed). An energy-saving lighting retrofit was implemented at BLS in September that is now saving the City \$33,000.00/year or 200,000 kWh or energy. YouthCAN held their Annual Teach-In on Sustainability at BLS on Feb 14 with more than 50 BLS faculty participating. In April YouthCAN students were one of five schools invited to contribute a mural to David Breashears Rivers of Ice project. The BLS mural traveled with Breashears to the Himalayas to raise awareness about melting glaciers. YouthCAN also participated in the School of the Future Design Competition, and in the Cambridge Science Festival Ideas Challenge. Twelve YouthCAN students traveled to Washington, D.C. in May and June for meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill. YouthCAN students also met at BLS with 45 students from the Japan Fulbright program about sustainability issues.

### YouthCAN 2011/12 Revenue

In 2011/2012 BLS Youth CAN won two rounds of the Lexus EcoChallenge earning 20K, and was one of three high schools nationally to win the Samsung Sustainable Energy Award for 10K. YouthCAN was also the MA Senior Winner in the National Energy Education

Development Youth Awards. The group received generous donations from Alumni in the amount of \$6,500.00 and students raised \$2,400.00 in a Fair Trade fundraiser. YouthCAN received grants from: National Grid Foundation, 10K; Deitch Leadership Institute Grants \$5,000.00; New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund, \$1,500.00; Clean Energy Center, 20K. The CEC grant funded the second year of YouthCAN's Teen Green Jobs Energy Audit Training Program. 5 energy audits will be completed by teen program participants in the fall of 2012 at other BPS schools. YouthCAN hopes to provide energy saving implementation budgets to support student audit recommendations. In the past 5 years YouthCAN has generated more than \$250K.

### Leadership & Service Opportunities for Students

As BLS continues to institutionalize sustainability as a school-wide initiative, BLS students continue to have exciting opportunities to gain valuable leadership experience, and engage in meaningful community service and travel. In 2012/2013 students can help develop community partnerships, participate in public speaking, work with City officials, and lead a wide variety of YouthCAN initiatives including: web development, a year-long wind study, computer programming for a BLS comprehensive energy model display, populating our energy portfolio, documenting classroom sustainability projects, creating an international online collection of digital art representing youth-led school based sustainability initiatives and more. Sign up for YouthCAN at the Extra Curricular Fair in late September, or through YouthCAN faculty advisor, Cate Arnold in 025 .

### Upcoming Event:

Join YouthCAN on **Saturday, September 29**, for the Green Apple Day of Service from 12-2:00 in the BLS Dining Hall. Look for more info on the BLS YouthCAN website @ [www.blsyouthcan.org](http://www.blsyouthcan.org)